

Teacher Candidate Assessment Review Committee Report: 2006-07
Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant
August 24, 2007

What follows is a summary report of the activities of the Iowa Department of Education Student Teaching Evaluation Review Committee during the 2007-8 year, with current plans to go forward in the 2007-8 school year.

In the fall of 2006, Iowa's plan to the U.S. Department of Education regarding highly qualified elementary teachers under NCLB included the current Praxis II **interim** testing with plans to "further develop performance assessment that will be aligned with the provisions of NCLB."

During the 2006-07 school year, the *IDESTE/PICK Review Committee* addressed Director Jeffrey's request to revise the elementary version of the *IDESTE (Iowa Department of Education Student Teaching Evaluation)* instrument to provide an assessment instrument that could eventually replace the current interim Praxis II testing. In the fall and winter of 2006-7, the committee expanded the content knowledge section of the IDESTE and created two new documents: *IDESTE: PICK (Performance Indicators of Content Knowledge)* and *IDESTE: PICK-A (Performance Indicators of Content Knowledge – Application)*.

Our revision process created a new vision for Iowa's testing program, which holds true to our desire for multiple means of assessment and against a single, high-stakes test, to recommend teacher candidates for licensure. This new vision proposes that, as content knowledge is one component of assessment in both content methods courses and student teaching (*INTASC Standard on Content Knowledge*), this assessment can be formalized and used in conjunction with grade-point to replace the Praxis II testing. To do so, elementary teacher candidates would be assessed in content knowledge during their methods courses using the new IDESTE: PICK. Then, during their student teaching assignment, elementary student teachers would be evaluated by university supervisors in collaboration with cooperating teachers, using the new IDESTE: PICK-A. Each of these assessment instruments would be piloted to make sure they were reliable and valid as methods of assessment of content knowledge.

Accordingly, throughout the winter, the IDESTE Committee worked to develop and approve the content of the PICK and the manner in which it would be tested. In the spring of 2007, the PICK was piloted with over 200 methods candidates at all of the Regents institutions and a number of other Iowa colleges and universities. Data was collected, and a reliability-validity study was done within the Department of Education to determine the potential for this instrument as one means of assessment and as a possible replacement for the PRAXIS eventually. (*The results of this study are provided for review in a separate attachment.*) At the last meeting of the 2006-7 school year, the IDESTE-PICK committee began plans for piloting the second phase of our work: to pilot the PICK-A, which would be the same type of assessment, only done with student teachers in their placements by their university supervisors in collaboration with their cooperating teachers.

If this multiple-assessment approach is adopted, teacher candidates would be assessed in all four content areas at least once during their coursework (using the PICK). The same content would also be assessed during the student teaching placement, using the PICK-A. This instrument provides an *application* perspective to the content knowledge. The results of these assessments, when combined with the candidate's grade-point average would ultimately replace the current PRAXIS II test mandated by the Federal Government.

As the summer of 2007 began, plans were in place to pilot the student teaching portion of this assessment approach (PICK-A) during the fall of 2007, with a number of cooperating teachers and university supervisors from the regents institutions and other Iowa colleges and universities. However, that plan has been delayed in order to review some concerns of the Regents institutions arising over the summer about the physical logistics of this second type of assessment. The current plan is to review these concerns at the fall/2007 IDESTE Committee meeting, with the hope of moving forward with the PICK-A pilot at a later point in the fall of 2007 or winter of 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
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IDESTE/PICK Review Committee